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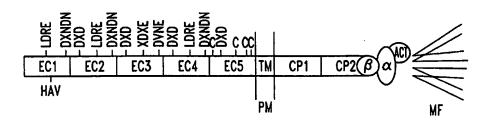
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#### (57) Abstract

Modulating agents for inhibiting an interaction between  $\alpha$ -catenin and  $\beta$ -catenin are provided. The modulating agents comprise one or more of: (a) a  $\beta$ -catenin HAV motif; (b) a peptide analogue or mimetic of a  $\beta$ -catenin HAV motif; or (c) an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds to a  $\beta$ -catenin HAV motif. Methods for using such modulating agents for inhibiting cadherin-mediated cell adhesion in a variety of contexts are also provided.